

GENERAL OFFICE MEMORANDUM 25-028

TO: ALL DISTRICT ATTORNEY PERSONNEL

FROM: STEVEN I. KATZ *SK*  
Chief Deputy District Attorney

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF RACE-BLIND CHARGING

DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2025

Pursuant to Penal Code section 741, the California Department of Justice has issued guidelines to prosecutorial agencies for the implementation of Race-Blind Charging (RBC). Effective January 1, 2025, RBC requires a two-step review of cases submitted for filing consideration, procedures intended to reduce the potential for unconscious bias in the crime-charging process.

In compliance with Penal Code section 741, RBC will be incorporated into our Office's eCER / PIMS systems between February 28 and March 3, 2025.

Penal Code section 741(b) requires a two-step review process by the reviewing deputy responsible for a charging decision. First, the reviewing deputy will review a *redacted*<sup>1</sup> narrative of the law enforcement submission and make an initial charging decision. The reviewing deputy must record that decision. Next, the reviewing deputy will review the *unredacted* materials in the eFolder and make a final charging decision, documenting and maintaining a record of any changes in the reviewing deputy's filing decision.

Importantly, RBC does not apply to all crimes. Penal Code section 741(c) lists classes of crimes for which cases do not need to be redacted and subjected to RBC's two-step review. Excludable offenses include homicides, hate crimes, domestic violence crimes, sex crimes, gang crimes, financial crimes cases in which redaction is not practicable, public integrity cases, videotaped physical confrontations, and grand jury matters, among other categories.

A step-by-step guide to implementing RBC is attached. Any questions about RBC should be directed to eCER Coordinator Margaret Moe, who may be reached at: (213) 974-0987 (office); [REDACTED] (cell); or [mmoe@da.lacounty.gov](mailto:mmoe@da.lacounty.gov).

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Attachment

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<sup>1</sup> eCER / PIMS will be utilizing AI to redact key words that may identify the race or ethnicity of a suspect, victim, witness, or officer. In addition to words that expressly identify race or ethnicity, redacted content will include names, addresses, physical characteristics such as skin color or complexion, language spoken, and gang name or moniker.



**ATTACHMENT(S) REDACTED**

*(C.C.P. § 2018.020 and 2018.030.)*